Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05918 081708Z ACTION EUR-12

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P 081629Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY MADRID TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1314

UNCLAS MADRID 5918

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: GRAPO TERRORISTS ARRESTED

1. AFTER A LONG INVESTIGATION, MADRID POLICE STRUCK AUGUST 5 AND 6 AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS, ARRESTING A TOTAL OF SIX MEMBERS OF GRAPO, THE EXTREME-LEFT TERRORIST GROUP. AMONG THOSE CAPTURED (AFTER A GUN BATTLE THAT LEFT HIM WOUNDED) WAS FERNANDO HIERRO CHAMON, REPORTEDLY THEIR HIGHEST REMAINING LEADER. MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ARE BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR A LONG LIST OF ROBBERIES AND ATTACKS, INCLUDING THE KILLING OF A BANK GUARD IN BARCELONA AND THE KIDNAPPINGS OF SR. ORIOL AND LT.GEN. VILLAESCUSA LAST YEAR.

2. ONE TERRORIST, LUIS TORRIJOS, FLED THE GUN BATTLE IN WHICH HIERRO WAS CAPTURED AND HELD A MADRID FAMILY HOSTAGE IN THEIR APARTMENT FOR EIGHT HOURS. DURING TELEPHONE NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH BECAME SOMETHING OF A MEDIA CIRCUS) INVOLVING POLICE AND NEWSPAPER REPORTERS, TORRIJOS DEMANDED THAT A WELL-KNOWN LAWYER (NAMING AMONG OTHERS POPULAR SOCIALIST (PSP) LEADER TIERNO GLAVAN) BE PRESENT, TO GUARANTEE HIS SAFETY DURING AND AFTER SURRENDER. POLICE CONTACTED TIERNO, WHO ENTERED THE APARTMENT, ACCEPTED TORRIJO' SURRENDER, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE, OR SOME OTHER PSP LAWYER, WOULD SERVE AS HIS DEFENSE COUNSEL. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: GRAPO TERRORISTS ARRESTED

TAGS: PINT, SP, GRAPO, (CHAMON, FERNANDO HIERRO), (TORRIJOS, LUIS)

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